



# U.S. Department of Justice

## Federal Bureau of Investigation

December 6, 2016

ABID AWAN; ET. AL; EMPLOYEES - U.S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES;  
FRAUD AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A full investigation was developed based on information received from the United States Capitol Police (USCP) and the United States House of Representative, Office of Inspector General (OIG) that six shared House employees, who work as computer specialists in the House IT Department, manipulated the purchase price of computer equipment in an attempt to keep the items off of the inventory. Some of the equipment either disappeared or never made it to the Member's office for whom the equipment was purchased. The six shared employees are family members and work for 42 Members.

In April 2016, House OIG became aware of irregular computer equipment purchases made by House systems administrator shared employee Abid Awan. Along with Awan, five other shared employees requested vendors to split the cost of equipment among multiple items in order to circumvent the House \$500 equipment accountability threshold. Most of the equipment at issue was not listed on the House office's inventory list. To date, House OIG has identified 20 offices with irregular payments to the vendor. In September 2016, House OIG sought the help of USCP, Criminal Investigations Section. USCP opened an investigation and in November 2016, the United States Attorney's Office requested the FBI join the investigation with the USCP and House OIG in order to increase investigative resources.

In addition to the missing equipment, House OIG further discovered five of the subject employees collectively logged into 15 Member offices and the Democratic Caucus, despite not being employed by those offices. House OIG also discovered a drop box program on multiple workstations used by the subject shared employees. House OIG is reviewing the metadata of the affected systems to determine if the subjects improperly accessed and retrieved Member emails and files.

A review of Virginia State Corporation Commission records and bank records obtained by USCP revealed Awan and his wife and subject, Nataliia Sova, are registered agents for, or associated with, multiple businesses including Cars International LLC, Discover EZ Car Buying Company, Regional Car Center Inc, and AAA Motors. Awan and Sova failed to disclose on their House Financial Disclosure Statements their association with and earned income from these companies.

This investigation is being worked jointly with USCP and House OIG. Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSA), Michael Marando and Zia Faruqui, District of Columbia, have been working with the House OIG and USCP on this matter and recommended the FBI assist in an effort to increase investigative resources. AUSAs Marando and Faruqui concur with the opening of a full investigation.